Justice Society of America Annual 1
C!N
1097

You Can't Go Home Again... Can You?

Power Girl has made a wonderful life for herself—admired as a heroine, respected as chairwoman of the Justice Society of America. But no matter how revered she is on this Earth, she's never forgotten the world she originally called home... the world of Earth-2, where the Justice Society were the only heroes, and where Batman's daughter Helena Wayne was her best friend.

But what would happen if she *did* get the chance to go home again?

That's the question that *Geoff Johns & Jerry Ordway* answer in ***Justice Society of America Annual #1,*** a forty-page special tale called "Welcome to Earth-2." "The Annual related to both the current 'One World Under Gog' storyline and to Power Girl's past," editor *Michael Siglain* said. "The art by *Jerry Ordway & Bob Wiacek* is just gorgeous, and the script is, without question, one of Geoff's best. He's cooked up a few surprises that I don't think *anyone* will see coming!"

For readers who aren't up to speed on their multiverses, *Geoff Johns* offers a rundown on Power Girl's backstory and her alternate-world origins. "Power Girl is one of the two survivors of the original multiverse before the Anti-Monitor wiped it out, the other being Superboy-Prime," Johns said. "She is Kara Zor-El, the 'Supergirl' of a world where the Justice Society of America and their sons and daughters were the main heroes. Time moved a little slower there.

"Everything was tied back to the days of World War II. Once it was destroyed, she was shunted in our universe and taken in by the Justice Society. She has felt alone, lost and kicked around for years. Her stoic, snarky and in-your-face attitude grew from that and acts as her shield. She has since become one of the most experienced and powerful members of our Justice Society and its chairwoman."

Veteran comics readers—or newer fans who are up to date on their ***Archives*** and ***Showcase Presents*** collections—recognize Earth-2 as the world from which Jay Garrick and the original Justice Society came in those Silver Age ***Flash*** and ***Justice League of America*** crossover sagas. Now that DC has trimmed its realities to 52 multiverses, is it safe to say that Earth-2 is one of those worlds? Johns isn't giving away too much in that regard. "We'll learn more about the return of Earth-2, which is one of the 52 worlds, in the ***Annual***. The idea I wanted to explore was really treating a parallel Earth like it was something special. That is, every time we see Earth-2, *Jerry Ordway* illustrates it. It's his Earth and its creator driven rather than simply plot driven. The same goes for Earth-22, the ***Kingdom Come*** world, where *Alex* illustrates everything having to do with that. It gives the worlds a distinct artistic feel unique to them. It also limits the overuse of parallel Earths which I feel is important. You exploit them too quick and it's a bit of a mess."

For artist *Jerry Ordway*, the chance to revisit Earth-2 has been a sort of trip back home as well. "It's been a blast, as this is basically the Earth 2 as I remember it, from ***Infinity Inc,*** and even from ***All Star Squadron,***" Ordway said.

While Power Girl plays a focal role in the storyline, but she's not the only heroine to spend time in the spotlight. "The main character in the Annual is Helena Wayne - Batman's daughter, the Huntress," Johns said. "I wanted to really explore what it would be like to inherit everything from Batman and what kind of toll that would take on somebody."

What other characters play a prominent role in the story? "I've already mentioned Infinity Inc, and as Geoff said, the Huntress also plays a big part, as Power Girl tries to re-connect with her old friend," Ordway explained. "This is a world where Batman died a while back, and Dick Grayson is still called Robin. This world also had their own versions of Doctor Fate, the Spectre, and the Justice Society, but with a slightly different timeline than the current DC Universe."

The groundwork for ***Justice Society of America Annual #1*** is laid in the pages of the monthly ***JSA*** series. "An event occurs in ***Justice Society of America #17***" that sets the events of the Annual in motion, Johns said. "The story in the Annual ties directly into the current ***Justice Society*** story 'One World, Under Gog!'"

"The events in the ***Justice Society of America Annual*** take place immediately following ***JSA #17,***" Siglain added. "The being known as GOG has been moving through Africa righting wrongs and granting wishes, and Power Girl is one of the lucky few who gets her wish granted. We find out what her wish is—and what it means to our Earth and Earth-2—in the pages of the ***Annual.***"

While the story can be read on its own, Ordway and Johns confirm that there will be ripples from this tale that will spread through the DCU in upcoming months—but it's *not* ***Final Crisis*** related. "It's self-contained within the world of the Justice Society , but of course it'll effect the direction of ***Justice Society of America, Power Girl,*** and some other pieces of the DC Universe," Johns said.

Thomas Wolfe once told us that you can't go home again; does Power Girl's tale prove him right or wrong? "I guess that's what we're trying to find out," Johns said.

"Let's just say, 'be careful what you wish for,'" Siglain added.

"If *something* didn't go wrong, it wouldn't be a very interesting story," Ordway said in conclusion. "So while it is great to visit your old stomping grounds, you can't always pick up where you left off, you know? After many years, I revisited my old neighborhood where I grew up, and so much had changed. I knew that I didn't belong there any more. In Power Girl's case, not that much has changed on her old world. But *she* is different, you know..."

Is it possible that this won't be Ordway's last visit to Earth-2? Could we perchance see him illustrating more JSA tales on a regular basis? "I'd love to, and I'm under the impression I will at least be contributing some chapters to the regular title that take place in this Power Girl storyline."

While Ordway is revered as one of comics' most skilled illustrators and storytellers, he also has made quite a name for himself as a writer. Would he like to return to that role? "I miss it, but I seem to be in an art-only phase at the moment," Ordway explained. As I've said before, I'm an assignment based guy, and don't have a spare moment to write pitches on spec, which is the way it works these days.

If any DC editor called me and told me they needed a writer on ***Robin***, or whatever, I'd jump into it and do my homework. Stories always evolve out of character for me, so I don't have fifty generic plots in my head to plug a character into. Send me in a direction and I will write up a storm, though!"

Ordway is often compared with some of the greats of the Silver Age, including the legendary *Wally Wood*—and it's a comparison that Ordway appreciates. "Wally was a big influence on me, along with *Joe Sinnott*, *Dick Giordano*, and *Tom Palmer*. All those artists illustrated with incredible clarity, which I aspire to in my own work. Storytelling is king, mood is secondary, but still important."

Justice Society of America Annual #1, a $3.99 comic, is scheduled for July 30th release.

by Cliff Biggers

Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

Comic Shop Newsarama

Produced by Comic Shop News in cooperation with Matt Brady and newsarama.com

Two Image Founders Reunite on Flagship Title

Halloween is a month for spooky beings, scares, and surprises—and that's just what Image is preparing to deliver! That's the month that *Spawn* creator *Todd McFarlane* returns to his most famous creation—and he's bringing with him fellow Image founder *Whilce Portacio*, who will join him to illustrate the series beginning with ***Spawn #185.***

"While I'm very happy with where Spawn has gone, it's long past time to inject some new blood into the series while also returning to its roots," McFarlane said. "I feel what Whilce and I are doing with our co-writer, *Brian Holguin*, combines the old and the new in a way no one would have expected. That's a claim which gets tossed around quite a bit in the industry, but this one really changes everything."

What will *Todd McFarlane's* role be as far as ***Spawn*** is concerned—will he be working in a supervisory role, will he be plotting, will he be pencilling, will he be scripting? "All of the above," McFarlane told ***CSN.*** "I want to push the book in a new visual and storytelling direction. I can't do that from a distance, so I'll need to be involved in the plot, in the way the pages are laid out, in guiding the artwork and doing some of the inking on it, in having control over the way the color blends with the art, and even in the way the letters co-mingle with the art. When I was doing it all myself years ago, I looked at each page as the end result all of those skills, not any one piece of it. So I'll have my fingerprint on every single one of those aspects."

What are McFarlane, Holguin, and Portacio doing to make it easy for readers who've been away for a while to pick back up with ***Spawn?*** We're going to give Spawn a big cataclysmic event in ***Spawn #185,*** and that will offer people an easy jumping-on point," McFarlane said. "We'll make it clear enough storytelling-wise that you don't *have* to come with a hundred issues of ***Spawn*** continuity under your belt in order to enjoy this book. You'll be able to go 'Wow, that's an interesting superhero comic!' and not 'Oh, I need to know something about Spawn' per se."

What elements of the ***Spawn*** storyline remain a vital part of the book since McFarlane was last involved, and what has changed in his absence? "Of course, any big character remains the driving force behind his book. If Bruce Wayne decides to leave Gotham City and relocate in Knoxville, Tennessee, he's still Batman when he lands there. And anyone who takes up the guise of Batman and kidnaps Bruce Wayne—well, the costume itself has a history that goes with it. Batman is Batman no matter what, and there's a mystique about the costume.

"With Spawn, not only do we have the character, but we have a living costume. I can play off both of those and put them in completely different scenarios and see if we can't come up with some creative storylines and changed agendas that you haven't seen before."

After a few years of problems with lateness, ***Spawn*** has been on schedule; will McFarlane, Holguin, and Portacio be able to maintain that timely release schedule? "That's the goal" McFarlane said. "Whilce is burning through the pages fast; right now, we're putting ***Spawn #180*** to bed in anticipation of Whilce's debut with ***Spawn #185,*** so we've got a nice lead. Also, part of the way I'm trying to tell stories will acknowledge the fact that we're trying to do a monthly book and include good storytelling. There are corners that you can sort of get around easier if you're paying attention to doing clever art while remembering that there are deadlines over your head."

Whatever happened to McFarlane's previously-announced ***Batman/Spawn*** project that was to be produced in conjunction with DC—any chance readers might see that at some point? "I don't know—that's still an up-in-the-air project with no end date in sight, so I wouldn't want to predict that right now," McFarlane said.

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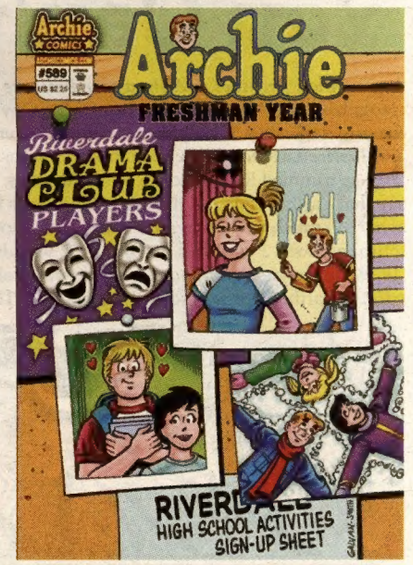
- ***Secret Invasion Director's Cut*** will expand from the originally-announced 64 pages to 80 pages; the book will include the first printed version of the ***Secret Invasion Prologue*** by *Brian Bendis & Leinil Yu*, previously only available online.
- The *Lee Bermejo* variant cover for ***Dark Tower: The Long Road Home #5*** will be presented in black and white.
- ***Invincible Iron Man #2*** goes back to press in early July; *Salvador Larroca* will supply the new cover art.
- ***X-Force #4*** goes back to press in early July as well; the second printing will feature a cover by *Clayton Crain.*
- ***Wolverine #67*** will feature a previously-unannounced 1-for-50 sketch variant cover by *Steve McNiven.*
- ***Immortal Iron Fist #17*** will feature a previously-unannounced 1-for-10 variant cover by *David Aja.*

- Marvel's offering not one but *two* variant 1-for-30 covers for ***Uncanny X-Men #500.*** *Michael Turner* supplies the art for one of the two variants, while *Terry Dodson* supplies the art for the other.
- ***The Tomb of Dracula by Gene Colan Poster*** will increase in price to $9.99; all proceeds form the poster will go to the Hero Initiative, in order to help veteran comic book creators who have no pensions or health insurance in spite of their years in the industry.
- Valiant continues their reprints-supplemented-with-original material hardcover line with the September release of ***Archer & Armstrong: First Impressions,*** which reprints ***A&A #s 0-6,*** supplementing those stunning *Barry Windsor-Smith* tales with an original ***Archer & Armstrong*** story written by *Jim Shooter* (who co-created the characters and co-wrote #s 0-2) and illustrated by *Sal Velluto & Bob Almond.* The new story explains just how and why Armstrong has been pursued by this secret organization all these years.

- *Blake Bell*, creator of the impending ***Strange & Stranger: The World of Steve Ditko,*** has two more books in the works for Fantagraphics in 2009: ***Bill Everett: Fire and Water,*** a biography of the creator of *Sub-Mariner* who returned to Marvel in the Silver Age to illustrate the first Daredevil story and many other tales; and ***The Complete Steve Ditko: 1953-1954,*** which features full-color reprints of every story from the first two years of Ditko's career. "This is arguably his most interesting period, before the comics industry domesticated him to some extent, when his work at its most stylistically uninhibited," publisher *Gary Groth* said. "It will serve as a perfect companion to Blake's earlier book on Ditko."
- Viper Comics is launching an all-horror imprint, Black Mamba Books this fall, just in time for Halloween. The imprint will premiere with the not-too-horrifying ***Attack of the Killer Tomatoes,*** an adaptation of the upcoming remake. Viper is also talking with prominent filmmakers and screenwriters regarding original horror projects for the new line.



- Archie Comics offers a sort of "Archie: Year One (of High School)" saga in "Freshman Year," a multi-part prequel that kicks off in July's ***Archie Comics #587,*** which focuses on the junior-high-graduating Riverdale gang as they prepare for their first year of high school. The story continues in ***Archie #588,*** focusing on their fall semester, and ***Archie #589,*** spotlighting their winter semester. *Batton Lash* (who previously penned Archie's meeting with the Punisher in one of the strangest crossover books in comics history) is the writer for this multi-part look at Archie's earliest high school exploits.
- Boom Studios continues to mine *H.P. Lovecraft's* outré imaginings with their upcoming series ***Necronomicon,*** a four-parter written by *William Messner-Loebs.* ""Lovecraft believed—and he was right—that the scariest things are those least understood," Messner-Loebs said. "Thus he kept everything as vague as he could - the mythos, the monsters, even the horrid and grisly fates of his heroes. Well, my job is to describe, explicate, explain and anatomize said book and lay its mysteries bare, all whilst causing as much havoc as I can." Look for ***Necronomicon #1*** in August.

Top Comics for July

ASTONISHING X-MEN #25

Warren Ellis (W); Simone Bianchi (A)

(Marvel MAY082323 $2.99; also available in a signed alternate cover edition (MAY083841 $29.99))

What's the Scoop?

In the aftermath of "Divided We Stand," the X-Men are back together with a new look, a new base of operation, and a new mystery to solve.

Why Should You Care?

The bad news? *Joss Whedon & John Cassaday* are gone. The good news? *Warren Ellis & Simone Bianchi* are doing their best to make sure that you forget all about those other guys!

BILLY BATSON AND THE MAGIC OF SHAZAM #1

Mike Kunkel (W/A)

(Johnny DC MAY080224 $2.25)

What's the Scoop?

Eleven-year-old Billy Batson has a few more problems than the average pre-teen... but he also has one major asset—the ability to transform himself into the World's Mightiest Mortal!

Why Should You Care?

Herobear & the Kid creator *Mike Kunkel* uses his imaginative magic to play in this new all-ages series focusing on the super-powered alter ego that every eleven-year-old wishes he had!

BROKEN TRINITY #1

Ron Marz (W); Stjepan Sejic (A)

(Image MAY082227 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

This major summer Top Cow event brings together Witchblade, the Darkness, and Angelus... but one major player won't survive!

Why Should You Care?

Ron Marz helmed Top Cow's renaissance last year, so it's only natural that the publisher should tap him to take the story to the next level.

CAPTAIN AMERICA: WHITE #0

Jeph Loeb (W); Tim Sale (A)

(Marvel MAY082268 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

How did Bucky Barnes become Captain America's sidekick? The answer's in here!

Why Should You Care?

The critically acclaimed team of *Jeph Loeb & Tim Sale* continue the color-themed approach they began with ***Daredevil: Yellow, Spider-Man: Blue,*** and ***Hulk: Gray.***

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER #16

Joss Whedon (W); Karl Moline (A)

(Dark Horse MAY080010 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Buffy just wanted to learn the secrets of the mysterious scythe—but things get a lot more complicated when she finds herself transported to the world of future Slayer Fray!

Why Should You Care?

Joss Whedon returns as writer of this story that bridges the gap between ***Buffy*** and the future Slayer that he and Karl Moline created many years ago. How do their worlds intertwine! This is the place to find out!

COMIC BOOK TATTOO

Edited by Rantz Hoseley

(Image MAY082163 $29.99)

What's the Scoop?

The music of *Tori Amos* is the inspiration for this hefty oversized upscale collection of comics tales created by an amazing array of top talent.

Why Should You Care?

Pia Guerra, Leah Moore, John Reppion David Mack, Hope Larson, Ryan Kelly, Jonathan Hickman, Colleen Doran, Eric Canete, Ted McKeever... with creators like this on board, how can you *not* care?

CONAN THE CIMMERIAN #1

Tim Truman (W); Tomas Giorello (A)

(Dark Horse MAY080047 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Conan's saga jumps ahead a few years as the adult barbarian, older and wiser from his travels, returns to his homeland of Cimmeria on an odyssey that will eventually lead him to the throne.

Why Should You Care?

Tim Truman & Tomas Giorello present a harsher, more pragmatic Conan in this series that focuses on the hero in his prime.

FINAL CRISIS #3 (OF 7)

Grant Morrison (W); J.G. Jones (A)

(DC MAY080145 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Batman missing in action. Superman immobilized. Green Lantern on trial for his life. Wonder Woman facing the Evil Gods. This really *is* the day that evil wins!...

Why Should You Care?

Grant Morrison & J.G. Jones continue the riveting finale to the ***Crisis*** trilogy, a saga that will dramatically reshape the DC Universe.

FINAL CRISIS: REQUIEM #1

Peter Tomasi (W); Dough Mahnke & Christian Alamy (A)

(DC MAY080146 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

This special oneshot commemorates the passing of J'Onn J'Onnz, arguably the first hero of the Silver Age and a mainstay of the Justice League.

Why Should You Care?

The death of a veteran hero in the DCU makes it more clear than ever just how high the stakes are in DC's ultimate hero-versus-villain showdown.

FINAL CRISIS: ROGUES REVENGE #1 (OF 3)

Geoff Johns (W); Scott Kolins (A)

(DC MAY080147 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Captain Cold and the Rogues had no idea that their involvement in the murder of Bart Allen would make them the most wanted men on Earth—wanted by the good guys, by the former Rogue Pied Piper, and by the Secret Society of Super-Villains.

They'd love to just disappear underground... but it's hard to resist the lure of revenge...

Why Should You Care?

Master storyteller *Geoff Johns* returns to the Flash's world with this tale focusing on those responsible for Bart's startling murder. But where's the Flash during all this?...

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA ANNUAL #1

Geoff Johns (W); Jerry Ordway (A)

(DC MAY080200 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

No matter how much of a life Power Girl has made for herself on our world, she's never stopped hoping that she might some day be able to return to her own Earth. But is she prepared for what happens once her hope becomes reality?

Why Should You Care?

Geoff Johns joins with uber-artist Jerry Ordway to take readers to a world where the Justice Society were the only heroes, where Helena Wayne is the daughter of Batman, and where evil is a little easier to fight... isn't it?

NEIL GAIMAN'S CORALINE GN

Neil Gaiman (W); P. Craig Russell (A)

(Harper Collins MAY083918 $18.99)

What's the Scoop?

When Coraline steps through a door in her family's new house, she finds a remarkable new world on the other side—a world with

continued on page 6

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HARDCOVER COLLECTION
JULY 2008

"YOU'VE NEVER SEEN HORROR LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL"

—The Pullbox

"WONDERFULLY CREEPY..."

—Pop Syndicate

"WOW! ★★★★½ STARS"

—Hero Spy

a better house, better food, better toys... but not everything is better in this world, as Coraline soon discovers.

Why Should You Care?

Neil Gaiman joins with *P. Craig Russell* for a graphic novel based on his best-selling book.

REIGN IN HELL #1 (OF 8)

Keith Giffen (W); Matt Clark & Stephen Segovia (A)
(DC MAY080152 $3.500

What's the Scoop?

Lord Satanus sets out to dethrone Neron and take control of hell... and wait until you see who's drafted onto various sides in this infernal war!

Why Should You Care?

Keith Giffen explores the supernatural dark side of the DC Universe in a major-event miniseries that takes perfidy to a new—and even lower—level.

SECRET INVASION #4

Brian Bendis (W); Leinil Yu (A)
(Marvel MAY082300 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

The Skrulls claim to be in charge... Earth's freedom is in jeopardy.... the Avengers are scattered and unsure who to trust... but there are two people who want to get to the bottom of the situation. One of them carries a hammer, the other carries a shield...

Why Should You Care?

Marvel's most riveting event ever continues as *Brian Bendis & Leinil Yu* wonder if there's *anyone* in the Marvel Universe you can really trust...

SPIKE: AFTER THE FALL #1 (OF 4)

Brian Lynch (W); Franco Urru (A)
(IDW MAY083932 $3.99)

What's the Scoop?

Get the real story behind Spike's first months in hell in this ***Angel: After the Fall*** spinoff series.

Why Should You Care?

Angel writer *Brian Lynch* pens the story... it's based on *Joss Whedon's* master plan... could it be any more canon than that?

SQUADRON SUPREME 2 #1

Howard Chaykin (W); Marco Turini (A)
(Marvel MAY082320 $2.99; also available in a signed edition (MAY083851 $19.99))

What's the Scoop?

Once they were humanity's real hope—the only beings who could remake the world into a better place. In the aftermath of their battle with the heroes of the Ultimate Universe, though, there isn't much hope left, either for them, for the left-behind Nick Fury, or for the world at large.

Why Should You Care?

Howard Chaykin takes over as writer of the new ***Squadron Supreme*** series, taking JMS's vision of a "Marvel Justice League" in a surprising new direction.

TRINITY #5

Kurt Busiek & Fabian Nicieza (W); Mark Bagley & others (A)
(DC MAY080140 $2.99)

TRINITY #6

Kurt Busiek & Fabian Nicieza (W); Mark Bagley & others (A)
(DC MAY080141 $2.99)

TRINITY #7

Kurt Busiek & Fabian Nicieza (W); Mark Bagley & others (A)
(DC MAY080142 $2.99)

TRINITY #8

Kurt Busiek & Fabian Nicieza (W); Mark Bagley & others (A)
(DC MAY080143 $2.99)

TRINITY #9

Kurt Busiek & Fabian Nicieza (W); Mark Bagley & others (A)
(DC MAY080144 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman are joined by the entire Justice League and the new psychic known as Tarot as they take on the mysterious Konvikt—and along the way, they learn more about their fated connection with the DC Universe.

Why Should You Care?

Now *this* is what a weekly comic should be: one superstar writer and one superstar penciller for *every weekly installment* of the lead story, the most iconic characters taking lead roles, and the most powerful guest stars in comic book history!

ULTIMATE ORIGINS #2 (OF 5)

Brian Bendis (W); Butch Guice (A)
(Marvel MAY082255 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

For the first time in seventy years, a strange object within Project Pegasus has awakened... but what is its link to the origins of the Ultimate Universe's superheroes, and how was a WWII-era Steve Rogers involved?

Why Should You Care?

Brian Bendis does double duty as writer of *two* of this summer's biggest comics events, revealing how everything is connected in the Ultiverse. This is the story that's seven years in the making—and it's worth all the build-up!

UNCANNY X-MEN #500

Ed Brubaker & Matt Fraction (W); Greg Land & Terry Dodson (A)
(Marvel MAY082324 $3.99; also available in an alternate-cover signed edition (MAY083852 $29.99))

What's the Scoop?

Sentinels... Magneto... the Master Mold... a new headquarters... a new status quo... how much more can Marvel cram into one extra-length book, anyway?!

Why Should You Care?

A new home, a new focus, a new creative team—if you've been waiting for the perfect jumping-on point, it's here!

X-FILES SPECIAL #0

Frank Spotnitz (W); Brian Denham (A)
(Wildstorm/DC JUN080285 $2.99)

What's the Scoop?

Mulder and Scully are back in action in this previously-untold story with links to this summer's ***X-Files*** revival film.

Three covers at three stages, the covers to *Trinity* 4-6.

Why Should You Care?
Not only does the story serve as a link between the television series and the new film, but it's actually written by movie co-writer and producer *Frank Spotnitz.*

Collected Cool: July's Best Reprint Volumes

ABSOLUTE LOEG THE BLACK DOSSIER HC
(Wildstorm/DC JAN080240 $99.00)

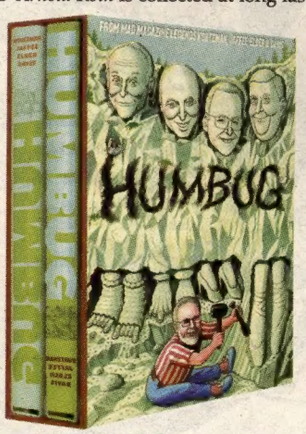
Not only does this present the entire *Alan Moore-Kevin O'Neill* saga in a deluxe oversized slipcased edition that includes the 3D section, the glasses, and the double-page spread of the Nautilus, but it also includes something you wont' find anywhere else: a 45-rpm vinyl recording of the song "Immortal Love" sung by *Alan Moore* himself!

AMERICAN FLAGG DEFINITIVE COLL HC VOL 1
(Image MAY082178 $49.99)

Years after it was first announced, this deluxe volume collecting the first fourteen issues of *Howard Chaykin's* seminal First Comics series ***American Flagg*** is here! The future never looked better!

HUMBUG HC
(Fantagraphics MAY083865 $50.00)

The short-lived post-***Mad*** magazine by *Harvey Kurtzman, with Jack Davis, Will Elder, Al Jaffee & Arnold Roth* is collected at long last.



MARVEL MASTERWORKS: GOLDEN AGE CAPTAIN AMERICA HC VOL 2
(Marvel MAY082349 $59.99)

Presenting a second helping of classic *Joe Simon & Jack Kirby* Cap adventures; this volume includes the ***Golden Age Captain America #s 5-8.***

FYI: Great Additions to Your Reference Library

ALTER EGO #79
(TwoMorrows MAY084245 $6.95)

Superman and his creators, *Jerry Siegel & Joe Shuster,* are spotlighted in this celebration of the 70th anniversary of Superman's premiere.

COMICS JOURNAL #292
(Fantagraphics MAY083874 $11.95)

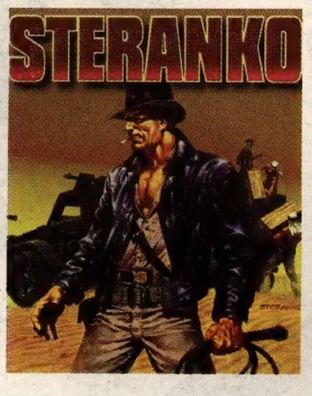
Grant Morrison discusses his work on ***X-Men, All Star Superman,*** and the groundbreaking ***Seven Soldiers of Victory*** multi-series saga, along with his role as an architect of the current DC Universe. This issue also features interviews with father and son cartoonists *Gene & Kim Deitch.*

FLASH COMPANION SC
(TwoMorrows MAY084165 $26.95)

Keith Dallas offers an insightful look into the comics careers of Jay Garrick, Barry Allen, Wally West, and Bart Allen, along with the comic book legends who chronicled their exploits—*Harry Lampert, Carmine Infantino, Marv Wolfman, Mark Waid, Julius Schwartz, Robert Kanigher, John Broome, Geoff Johns,* and others.

STERANKO HC
(Vanguard MAY084171 $34.95; also available in a slipcased set with 16 extra pages)

This massive full-color volume chronicles the career of one of comics' most influential creators, offering hundreds of images from his four-decade-plus career, including many never before collected in book form.



Hot Commodities: July's Hottest Merchandising & Collectibles

AME COMI WONDER WOMAN VINYL FIGURE
(DC Direct DEC070318 $49.99)

The Amazing Amazon is the latest heroine to be reinterpreted in a manga-influenced style in this distinctive vinyl statue.

BATMAN BLACK AND WHITE STATUE NEAL ADAMS
(DC Direct DEC070328 $75.00)

Sculpted by *"Spyda" Adams* based on the art of his father, one of comics' most acclaimed illustrators of the Dark Knight.

CLASSIC SPIRIT STATUE
(Dark Horse APR080142 $175.00)

Sculptor *Tony Cipriano* captures *Will Eisner's* Spirit in action in this iconic statue.

DARK KNIGHT: BATARANGS PROP REPLICA
(DC Direct APR080302 $125.00)

DARK KNIGHT: BATMAN STATUE
(DC Direct APR080299 $150.00)

DARK KNIGHT: GRAPPLING LAUNCHER PROP REPLICA
(DC Direct APR080301 $195.00)

DARK KNIGHT: THE JOKER STATUE
(DC Direct APR080297 $150.00)

Ultra-detailed props, meticulously sculpted statues capturing the likeness of *Christian Bale* and *Heath Ledger*... gee, you'd think there was a movie coming out this summer or somethin'!

JLA TROPHY ROOM JOKER CANE PROP REPLICA
(DC Direct DEC070317 $295.00)

This life-sized, high-quality, mixed-media replica features a metal Joker head handle. The two-piece solid wood staff section features varnished card suits, and the metal tip hides a Joker 'gas nozzle,' activated by a twist of the wrist! Packaged in an upscale box, this prop measures 37.25' long and includes a metal wall display shelf.

Check 'Em Out: Books You *Should* Be Reading

AMBUSH BUG: YEAR NONE #1 (OF 6)
(DC MAY080148 $2.99)

Da Bug is back in a zany new miniseries brought to you by his original creative team of *Keith Giffen, Robert Loren Fleming, & Al Milgrom.*

ANTOINE SHARP: THE ATHEIST VOL 2 #1
(Desperado MAY083774 $3.99)

Phil Hester & Kevin Mellon continue the exploits of the government agent charged with the task of debunking paranormal threats... unless they turn out to be real, in which case he's supposed to destroy them!

BATGIRL #1 (OF 6)
(DC MAY080170 $2.99)

Adam Beechen, Jim Calafiore & Jonathan Glapion spotlight Cassandra Cain in this six-issue miniseries.

COMIC BOOK COMICS #2
(Evil Twin MAY083863 $3.95)

Fred Van Lente & Ryan Dunlavey take a n irreverent but informative look at *Joe Simon, Jack Kirby, Will Eisner, William Gaines,* and more. What better way to present comics history than in comics form?

HELLBOY: THE CROOKED MAN #1 (OF 3)
(Dark Horse MAY080021 $2.99)

Mike Mignola reunites with comics legend *Richard Corben* for a new three-issue ***Hellboy*** miniseries.

JOURNEY TP VOL 1
(IDW MAY083988 $19.99)

William Messner-Loebs' wilderness adventures of Wolverine McAlistaire return to print after far too long an absence!

POPGUN GN VOL 2
(Image MAY082176 $29.99)

The second volume in this acclaimed anthology series features 460 pages of work by *James Kochalka, Dean Haspiel, Erik Larsen, Leah Moore,* and many others.

SUPERMAN/BATMAN #50
(DC MAY080181 $3.99)

Learn how Thomas Wayne's meeting with Jor-El shaped the Gotham's future in this memorable stand-alone tale by *Michael Green, Mike Johnson, & Ed Benes.*

ZMD: ZOMBIES OF MASS DESTRUCTION #1 (OF 6)
(Red 5 MAY084097 $3.25)

With public patience for Middle East casualties wearing thin, the U.S. military adopts a new weapon - Zombies! But you know how unpredictable the walking dead can be...

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WitH one magic WORD
a Boy BeComes
tHe WORLD'S
MIGHTIEST
MORTAL!
Written & Illustrated by
MIKE KUNKEL
the creator of
HEROBEAR
BILLY BATSON
AND THE MAGIC OF
SHAZAM
MONTHLY
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